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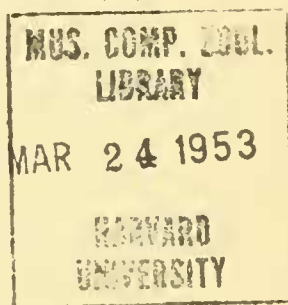
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A NEW RACE OF BLACK-THROATED BABBLER
FROM ASSAM

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The Mishmi Hills in northeastern Assam, India, were so violently devastated by the great earthquake of August 1950 that whole hillsides for miles along the narrow steep valleys have been denuded of soil and vegetation. Centuries will be needed in some areas to restore even an approximate habitat for the fauna. That this fauna is in many respects unique was abundantly shown by the Smithsonian-Yale Expedition of 1946-1947, the results of which were discussed in "The Birds of the Mishmi Hills" by Mr. Salim Ali and myself (*Jour. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 48(1):1-37, 1948). It is a sad fact that the fate of many of these little known bird and animal species will probably remain unknown for an indefinite period of time to come.

Meanwhile, reëxamination of specimens of the Black-throated Babbler from the Mishmi Hills, at the suggestion of Mr. H. G. Deignan, prompts the recognition of another population of this species as follows:

Stachyris nigriceps coei, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M., No. 9585), collected January 4, 1947, by S. Dillon Ripley at Dreyi, Mishmi Hills, northeastern Assam, India.

Diagnosis: from typical *nigriceps* of Nepal and the Himalayas ranging east into northern Assam this form differs by generally darker tone of plumage, and by having a blackish unstreaked throat and very slightly darker ear coverts.

From *spadix* of Cachar and the Khasia Hills this population differs by being notably darker with a more blackish throat and dark, really seal-brown, ear coverts. Compared with *coltarti*, the subspecies found in Margherita, the Naga Hills, and north Burma, *coei* differs by having dark brown rather than rufous-brown ear coverts, and by being a purer, less rufescent brown below.

Range: Mishmi Hills, northeastern Assam, India.

Remarks: in describing the subspecies, *spadix* (*Bull. British Ornith. Club*, 68:89-90, 1948), I left the Mishmi Hills population unnamed as an intermediate. Recent collections in the Naga Hills in 1950 of *coltarti* demonstrated anew the fallacy of this course and the necessity for recognizing this population.

It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to name this new subspecies for Yale's notable benefactor and collector of *ornithologica*, William Robertson Coe.